

"Metromont"

Acrylic on Clear Acrylic - 48 X 48 inches

# Russell Dunbar

# Russell Dunbar

New Paintings  
"Metropolitan Theme"

October 30 through  
November 25, 1979

## NATIONAL ART CENTER

484 Broome Street  
New York, N.Y. 10013  
Tel: (212) 226-0605

Hours: 12 to 6  
Tuesday - Sunday

Meet the Artist:  
Sunday, November 18 12-6 P.M.

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART  
ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

MAY 80

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on Cleveland Artists.

(RAYMOND)  
FULL NAME: RUSSELL R. DUNBAR  
DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: JUNE 5, 1927 - AKRON, OHIO  
PRIMARY MEDIA: ACRYLIC. (POLYMER PIGMENT ON CLEAR ACRYLIC PLASTIC)  
ART TRAINING - Schools, Scholarships, etc.:

1947-1948 - AKRON ART INSTITUTE  
1949-1953 - PRATT INSTITUTE, BROOKLYN, N.Y.  
1953-1954 - PRATT INSTITUTE DESIGN FELLOWSHIP.

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN:

PLEASE REFER TO ENCLOSED BIOGRAPHY/RESUME.

REPRESENTED BY THE ROBERT KIDD ASSOC GALLERY  
107 TOWNSEND ST.  
BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN  
48011  
TEL. (313) 642-3838

COLLECTIONS WHICH NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

HENRY FRANK - DETROIT MICH.  
COLLYER - AKRON, OHIO  
STANDARD (RENAISSANCE) CLUB - DETROIT, MICH.  
JOSEPH LAUB CORP. WARREN, MICH

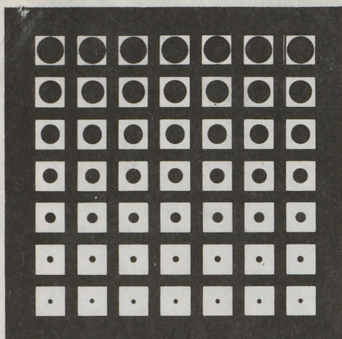
AWARDS:

REFER TO ENCLOSED BIOGRAPHY/RESUME

PRESENT POSITION:

GRAPHICS DESIGNER - G.M. CORP. WARREN, MICH.

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We would appreciate any information regarding subsequent awards, purchases, exhibitions and scholarships.  
Thank you for your cooperation.



## RUSSELL DUNBAR

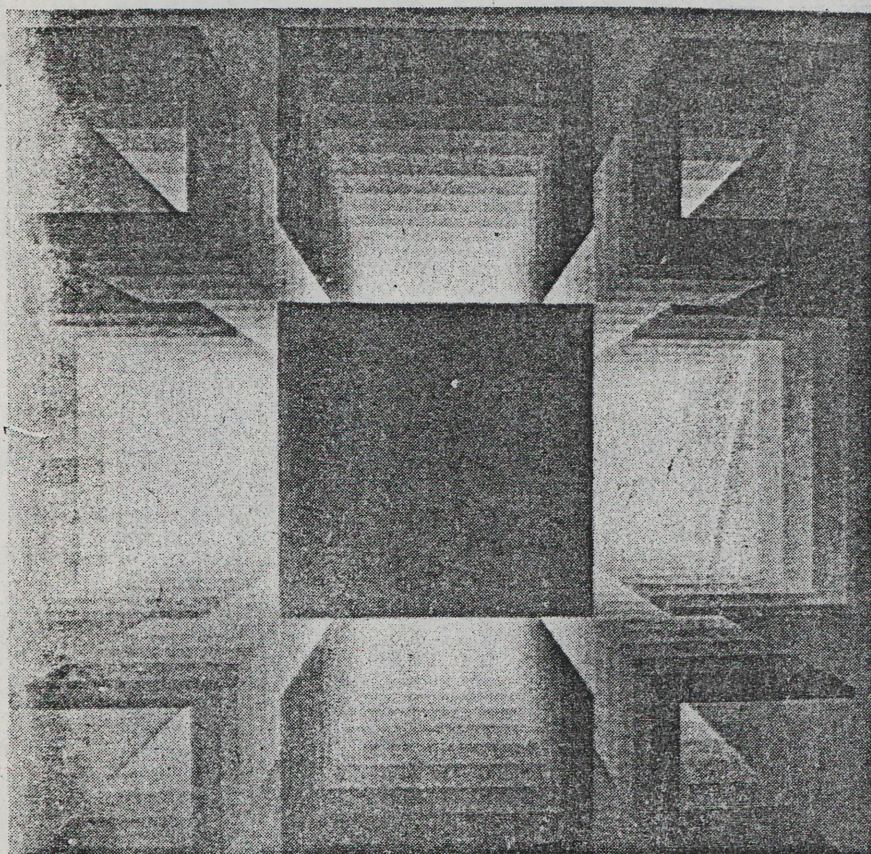
Artist / Designer  
29232 Wellington  
Farmington, Michigan 48024  
Telephone: (313) 626-2258

BORN	1927	Akron, Ohio
EDUCATION	1947-48	Akron Art Institute, Akron, Ohio
	1949-53	Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York
		Graduated: 1953 Summa Cum Laude
	1953-54	Pratt Institute Design Fellowship
EXHIBITED	1966,68,70	Michigan Artists Shows, Detroit Art Institute
	1968,69	Group Shows, Gertrude Kase Gallery, Detroit, Michigan
	1968,69	Rhode Island Art Festivals, Providence, Rhode Island
	1969	<i>Plastic Image</i> Invitational, Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, Michigan
	1970,71,72,73	Group Shows, Grippi Gallery, New York, New York
	1970	Annual Juried Show, Austin, Texas
	1970	Annual Juried Show, Akron Art Institute, Akron, Ohio
	1970	<i>Plastic Presence</i> Invitational Show, Bloomfield Art Association, Birmingham, Michigan
	1971	Group Show, Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn, Michigan
	1971	Group Show, Franklin Siden Gallery, Detroit, Michigan
	1971	Print International, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, Washington
	1971	<i>Color Print</i> Show, Lubbock, Texas
	1971,72	Painting and Sculpture Annual, Cleveland Art Museum
	1971,72,73	Gimpel & Weitenhoffer, Print Gallery, New York, New York
	1971	Abrams Original Prints, Print Gallery, New York, New York
	1971	Brooklyn Community Show, Brooklyn Museum, New York
	1971	Grand Rapids Print Show, Grand Rapids, Michigan
	1971	Siden Gallery Group Show, Kalamazoo Art Institute, Kalamazoo, Michigan
	1971	Print Show, Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts, Wadsworth Antheum, Hartford, Connecticut
	1971	2nd Creative Arts Festival, Cincinnati, Ohio
	1971	1st All Michigan Exhibition, Flint Art Institute, Flint, Michigan
	1972	Group Show, Franklin Siden Gallery, Detroit, Michigan
	1972	<i>Color Directions</i> Invitational, Bloomfield Art Association, Birmingham, Michigan
	1972,73,75,76,77,78	Palm Beach National Contemporary Painting Show, Palm Beach, Florida
	1972,73,74,75	Butler Annual, Butler Museum, Youngstown, Ohio
	1973	1st Mount Clemens Annual, Mount Clemens, Michigan
	1973	Group Show, Pontiac Creative Arts Center, Pontiac, Michigan
	1973,74,76,78	National Small Painting Show, William F. Mulally Gallery, Birmingham, Michigan
	1973,74,76,77,78	Michigan Artist Show, Michigan State Fair, Detroit, Michigan
	1973	Michigan Artist Show, Michigan University, Ann Arbor, Michigan
	1973	Grand Rapids Painting & Drawing Annual, Grand Rapids, Michigan
	1973	5-State Regional Painting & Sculpture Show, Cincinnati, Ohio
	1974,78,79	<i>Midland All Michigan</i> Show, Midland, Michigan
	1975,76	Franklin Siden Gallery Group Shows, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
	1975	Group Show, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York
	1975	<i>American Painters in Paris</i> Exhibition, Paris, France
	1978,79	Group Show, Robert L. Kidd Gallery, Birmingham, Michigan
	1979	National Academy of Design, New York, New York

AWARDS	1968	Campbell-Ewald Company Prize for Painting, Michigan Artists Show, Detroit, Michigan
	1970	Collyer Purchase Prize for Painting, Akron Art Institute
	1971	Print Purchase Award, Seattle Art Museum
	1973	2nd Prize, Michigan Artists Show, Michigan State Fair, Detroit, Michigan
	1973	1st Prize for Contemporary Painting, National Small Painting Show, Gallery North, Mount Clemens, Michigan
	1977	<i>Best of Show</i> Prize, Michigan State Fair, Detroit, Michigan
ONE MAN SHOWS	1977	2nd Prize, Hartland Annual, Hartland, Michigan
	1978	The Ralph Fabri Medal and Prize, 25 Annual Exhibition of the National Society of Painters in Casein and Acrylic, National Academy of Design, New York, New York
	1971	Reese Gallery, Seton Hill College, Greensburgh, Pennsylvania
	1972	Franklin Siden Gallery, Detroit, Michigan
	1972	Gallery Studio San Giuseppe, Cincinnati, Ohio
	1974	Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids, Michigan
	1974	Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo, Michigan
	1974	Michigan University, Dearborn Extension, Dearborn, Michigan
	1977	Robert L. Kidd Gallery, Birmingham, Michigan
	1979	NATIONAL ART CENTER, N.Y., N.Y.

1979

DEARBORN-CANSON PAINTING PRIZE - 26<sup>TH</sup>  
 ANNUAL AT THE NATIONAL SOCIETY IN CASEIN  
 AND ACRYLIC. OF PAINTERS  
 N.Y. N.Y.



Russell Dunbar's paintings done on Plexiglas suggest light which comes from beyond the confines of this world. (Staff photos by Tracy Baker)

## Dunbar achieves

By LESLIE MASTERS

Russell Dunbar's Plexiglas paintings at the Robert Kidd Gallery make a stunning color display.

These remarkable works painted on the reverse side of Plexiglas sparkle and glow; they seem to be illuminated with an inner light that defies their flat surface plane. The subtle value and color changes work to make a beautifully intricate color statement.

Dunbar has worked in this exacting medium for many years and is one of the few artists able to conquer its many difficulties.

He uses 16 values of two contrasting colors to construct his designs. He plots his one-point-perspective compositions meticulously on graph paper then transfers them to the paper-backed plastic.

THE ARTIST uses a mat knife to cut through the masking paper and delineate the areas to be painted.

Then he painstakingly peels away individual areas, one by one, and paints through the paper "stencil". Since areas to be painted must be separate to retain the hard

edged effect, paper must be left between each color area.

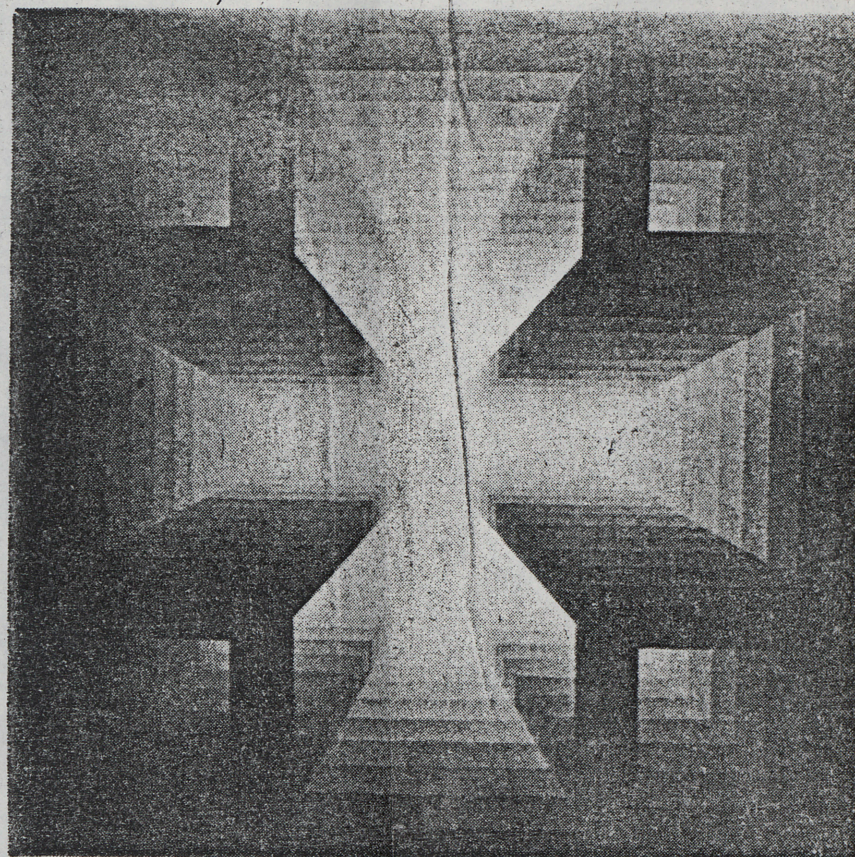
After these isolated areas are painted, the rest of the paper is pulled up, and the areas in between the original painted areas are filled in with paint. When the painting is viewed from the other side, the first colors to be laid down provide the edges to delineate succeeding colors.

IN ORDER FOR the colors to graduate perfectly from light to dark, Dunbar must mix all paints ahead of time and store them in jars. Much testing is involved in obtaining the correct progressions in color and in value.

Dunbar works with two colors and uses one for several geometric foreground figures and the other for background shapes that all recede and lighten as they progress toward the center of the plastic.

Thus the center of the painting is often white or the palest value of the color used in the painting. The gradually receding forms toward the pale central color produce the effect of light emanating from the center and projecting the forms outward from it.

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN



which comes from beyond the confines of this world. (Staff photos by Tracy Baker)

## luminous quality

The shapes used seem to move from this one central point in all directions. Hollow squares and rectangles predominate; all are straight edged and symmetrical.

COLORS ARE rich and luminous. This is due to the peculiar quality of Plexiglas that transmits light sideways through the plastic. Each color tends to reflect into the next, creating dense, saturated color.

Dunbar's titles such as "Super Nova," "Astroids" and "Ursa Major" give clues to the idea sources for his paintings. One particularly handsome painting is named "Red and Orange Nova." In this work, hollow squares of color progress outward to the corners of the plastic, gradually becoming darker in succeeding layers that get larger and seem to move toward you.

The shapes in the painting seem to explode and move through space, defying the flat space on which they are painted.

Russell Dunbar enjoys these color progression paintings as his way of participating in the "Op" art tradition of Vasarely, Anusiewicz,

and Albers. He adds to this color exploration a design background from the tradition of the European Bauhaus School of Design.

DUNBAR IS A full time graphics designer and was educated at the Pratt Institute of Design. He has had many one-man shows in this area as well as throughout the country. The latest in the Detroit area was at the Franklin Siden Gallery in 1972.

Many of his earlier works combined an actual light source located inside a Plexiglas box. He added to this light, painted and mirror surfaces to create shapes that receded into "infinity". It is interesting to note that Dunbar is now exploring the illusion of infinity with paint a much more difficult visual task.

His paintings are controlled as well as dynamic, elegant as they are exciting — a perfect blend of creativity and logic. In short, these are major works executed in a most difficult medium.

The paintings will be on view through April 9 at the Robert L. Kidd Gallery, 107 Townsend. Hours are from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

NATIONAL ART CENTER 484 Broome St. New York 10013 Tel. 226-0605

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ART EXHIBITION

Artist:	Russell R. Dunbar
Exhibition:	"Metropolitan Images"
Dates:	October 30 - November 25, 1979
Gallery Hours:	Tuesday - Sunday, Noon to Six PM
Meet the Artist:	Sunday, November 18, Noon to 6 PM

Russell R. Dunbar brings to New York for his first show at the National Art Center in Soho, October 30 thru November 25, ten new acrylic paintings of his "Metropolitan" theme.

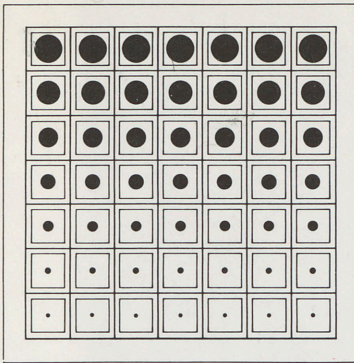
The artist makes use of a series of linear elements to build an isometric matrix for exploring color and light. The matrix is created by intersecting isometric lines enclosing rectangular color shapes arranged in rows and columns. Each element consists of a color modulated in value and intensity relative to adjoining elements, in order to achieve a total effect of harmony and unity. The device of constructing shapes through the subtle progression of color and value results in architectural-like forms. The orderly grouping of these forms suggest an imaginary city-scape or Metropolis that is suffused with light and surrounded by an illuminated atmosphere.

Technically, the drawing precision, craftsmanship and the use of contemporary materials is manifested in the work. The paintings are done in reverse image, painted on the back of clear acrylic plastic sheet with acrylic polymer pigment, four to six coats per color element, and fixed with a heavy coat of polymer varnish. Although brushes are used, the brush strokes are not visible, thereby no artist signature strokes or swirls are evident.

Mr. Dunbar's latest work is a culmination of several decades of research, experimentation and intuitive expression that had its formal beginning in the years at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York.

Graduate work in 1954 was followed by a successful career in the design field that continues to provide economic support for a serious painting endeavor.

The artist has had six one-man shows in the Mid-West; has been accepted in major National juried shows, and has won awards for painting, including the John Collyer Purchase Prize, Akron Art Institute, and the Ralph Fabri Medal and Prize, National Society of Painters in Casein and Acrylic, New York, N. Y. Mr. Dunbar lives and works in Farmington Hills, Michigan, near Detroit and is represented by the Robert Kidd Gallery of Birmingham, Michigan.



# RUSSELL DUNBAR

Artist / Designer

29232 Wellington

Farmington, Michigan 48024

Telephone: (313) 626-2258

Born	1927	Akron, Ohio
Education	1947 1948	Akron Art Institute, Akron, Ohio
	1949 1953	Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York Graduated: 1953 Summa Cum Laude Bachelor of Industrial Design
	1953 1954	Pratt Institute Design Fellowship
Exhibited	1966, 1968, 1970	Michigan Artists Shows - Detroit Art Institute
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One Man Shows	1971	Reese Gallery Seton Hill College, Greensburgh, Pennsylvania
	1972	FRANKLIN SIDEN GALLERY - DETROIT, MICHIGAN.
	1972	MT. ST JOSEPH COLLEGE - CINCINNATI, OHIO.